

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-³⁴36, without prejudice.

Please add claims 37-44, as follows:

³⁵
--³⁷37. (New) A process for the preparation of lactic acid, comprising:

A₂

growing, in a fermentation medium containing a carbon source, a yeast strain transformed with at least one copy of a gene coding for lactate dehydrogenase functionally linked to a promoter sequence allowing the expression of the gene in the yeast strain, wherein the yeast strain produces lactic acid at a yield from 0.5 gram lactic acid per gram glucose to 1 gram lactic acid per gram glucose, and wherein the transformed yeast strain lacks ethanol production ability or has a reduced ethanol production ability with respect to a wild-type yeast of the same strain which has been similarly transformed with the gene encoding lactate dehydrogenase, to produce lactic acid, wherein the yeast strain can grow or maintain its population at the pH of the fermentation medium; and,

recovering the lactic acid from the fermentation medium.

³⁶
38. (New) The process of claim ³⁵37, wherein the carbon source is selected from glucose, fructose, galactose, lactose, sucrose, raffinose, maltose, cellobiose, arabinose, or xylose.

³⁷
39. (New) The process of claim ³⁵37, wherein the fermentation medium contains less than 5 mM of Mg⁺⁺, less than 0.02 mM of Zn⁺⁺, or both.

³⁸
40. (New) The process of claim ³⁵37, wherein the fermentation medium has a pH of 7 or less.

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41. (New) The process of claim ³⁸40, wherein the pH is 4.5 or less.

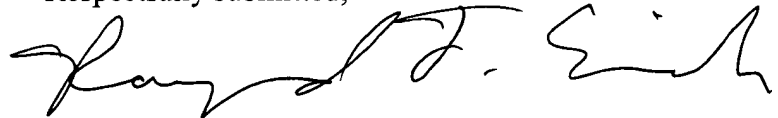
40
42. (New) The process of claim 71, wherein the pH is 3 or less.

A2
cont
41
43. (New) The process of claim ³⁵37, wherein the lactic acid is D-lactic acid or L-lactic acid.

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44. (New) The process of claim 37, wherein recovering comprises extracting lactic acid into an immiscible solvent phase.--

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Should any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to deduct said fees from Williams, Morgan & Amerson, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-0786/2027.547096/RFE.

Respectfully submitted,



Raymund F. Eich
Reg. No. 42,508

AGENT FOR APPLICANTS

WILLIAMS, MORGAN & AMERSON, P.C.
7676 Hillmont, Suite 250
Houston, Texas 77040
(713) 934-4065
(713) 934-7011 (fax)

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